

STUDY OF NEGRO LIFE.

Investigation into the Social and Economic Conditions of a Typical Negro Community in Virginia.

Washington dispatch to the New York Times: Under instructions from the government department of labor a study of a typical negro community, that at Farmville, the county seat of Prince Edward County, Virginia, was made during the months of July and August, 1892, by W. E. B. Du Bois, Ph. D., who lived in the community during that time and tabulated such statistics as he could obtain to show the social conditions. Farmville has a population of 3,681, of which 2,438 are negroes, and 1,243 whites. It is the geographical center of a typical "black" Virginia county, which had in 1890 a population of 14,684, of which 9,274 were negroes. The same proportion holds good at the present time. These negroes held 17,555 acres of land in 1895, as against 202,882 held by whites; the respective values being \$182,137 and \$1,094,180. It is, therefore, as representative a county for social science purposes as Farmville is a town.

Farmville is the trading center for six counties. It has an opera house, normal school for white girls, armory, court house and jail, bank, depot, churches, sixteen tobacco warehouses, and factories and substantial dwellings. On "market day," which is Saturday, the town is swollen to twice its size by the influx of country people, mostly negroes. So Mr. Du Bois concludes, "as good a spot as could be found to study the negro as he actually is under such social and economic conditions as exist to-day."

The investigator found a considerable excess of females in the population, due to the emigration of males to the north for employment, which is a habit among both sexes between the twenties and thirties in age, these frequently leaving their children behind them, so that there is an excess of old people and children. As to their social condition Mr. Du Bois found of 351 males over fifteen years of age, 147, or 41.9 per cent were single; 178, or 50.7 per cent were married; and 14, or 4 per cent were widowed. The remaining 15, or 4.3 per cent were in some irregularly divorced, but were permanently separated from their wives. Of the 392 women, 221, or 56.4 per cent were single; 178, or 45.4 per cent were married; 76, or 19.4 per cent were widowed, and 12, or 3.1 per cent were permanently separated.

Of the population in 1897 16 per cent were illegitimate birth, which is a decided change for the better in twenty years, especially when it is considered that marriages are now contracted at a much later period in life than during the slavery days. The standard of morals is constantly improving. The social life of the community has developed marvelously, says the reporter, due to the better influences of church life—which has been much elevated and has passed beyond the "excitable and screaming stage of hysterical revivals" among the better classes—and the secret and beneficial organizations.

Negroes have divided themselves into three social classes in the little town, the upper being the land owners and people in trade and of rather austere habits and strict morals, the middle class of laborers, servants, and farm hands, and the lowest strata, which includes criminals, male and female, who are ostracized by the rest of the community. Mr. Du Bois found two cases of leprosy, which are undisturbed despite the law. He could get no statistics as to percentage, except by observation.

He gave him these results: "Of 765 negroes met face to face, 323 were apparently of unmixed negro blood; 219 were brown in color and showed traces of white blood, and 153 were yellow or lighter, and showed considerable infusion of white blood. According to the one-third to one-half the negroes of the town are of mixed blood, and verifying this by observations on the street and in assemblies, this seemed a fair conclusion." He also concludes that the concubinage which brought about these results is rapidly decreasing.

The negroes are nearly all anxious to own lands and houses. They have established a building and loan association made up of men of their own race and are as rapidly as possible abandoning the old one-room cabin for frame houses with two or more distinct rooms. The school system is indifferent, yet the percentage of illiteracy has greatly decreased and he found that of 903 people above ten years of age, 42.5 per cent could both read and write, 17.5 per cent could read, but not write and 40 per cent were wholly illiterate, the excess of illiteracy being now among the men instead of women, as formerly. As to the occupation of the negroes above ten years of age, according to the popular classification of pursuits, he found in professional occupations, 22; in domestic, 287; in commercial, 45; in agricultural, 15; in industrial, 282; not engaged in gainful occupations, 259; and not reported, 14. Using a different classification, he found those working on their own account, 36; laboring class, 320; house service, 82; day service, 149; at home, uncoupled, and dependent, 23; professional and clerical, 21; and not reported, 14.

There was no colored physician or lawyer in the town, but there were two preachers of clean life and high repute, both graduates of theological seminaries; several young women earning from \$100 to \$250 a year as teachers during the six months' school period which is the rule in such communities, one undertaker, seven grocers, two blacksmiths, one wheelwright, a hotel and bakery conducted by a Hampton graduate and her husband, and the only steam laundry in the county, conducted by two colored men, who also own a laundry in Richmond, fifteen miles distant, and bathing well.

The brick-making business of Farmville and vicinity is in the hands of a colored man—a freedman, who bought his own and his family's freedom, purchased his master's estate, and eventually hired his master to work for him. He owns a thousand acres or more of land in Cumberland county and considerable Farmville property. In his brickyard he hires about fifteen hands, mostly boys from sixteen to twenty years of age, and runs five or six ovens at a time, making from 200,000 to 300,000 bricks. The richest of young men in the county is a barber, who is worth over \$10,000. Among the skilled trades, negroes are found as painters, shoemakers, cabinet-makers, coopers, blacksmiths, wheelwrights, brick masons, plasterers, carpenters, bakers, butchers, and wheelmakers. There are fourteen carpenters, three painters, and three masons who live in the town, besides several who live in the country and work in town. There are apparently more negroes in the trades than white men, but there is a dearth of young apprentices, so that colored contractors often have to hire white mechanics.

Farming is abandoned for the industrial chances of the town, large numbers being engaged in tobacco stripping, though many of the men work on the farms in the spring and autumn, to take out their incomes, which average about \$200 a year, as nearly as can be ascertained. Negroes look on domestic service as a relic of slavery, and only enter it as a necessity or a temporary makeshift.

Speaking of the distinctly social life of the community, an exemplified in their group or social assemblies, Mr. Du Bois says: "Among this class of people the investigator failed to notice a single instance of any action not indicating a thoroughly good moral tone. There was no drinking, no lewdness, no questionable conversation, nor was there any well-founded accusation. The circle was, to be sure, rather

small, and there was a scarcity of young men.

Of the better group of inhabitants, socially, he says: "It is pervaded by a peculiar hopefulness on the part of the people themselves. No one of them doubts in the least that one day black people will have all rights they are now striving for, and that the negro will be recognized among the earth's great peoples. Perhaps this simple faith is all of the products of emancipation, the one of the greatest social and economic values." His final conclusion is: "After an impartial study of Farmville conditions the industrial and property-accumulating class of the negro citizens best represents, on the whole, the general tendencies of the group. At the same time, the mass of sloth and immorality is still large and threatening."

WHEELING WHOLESALE MARKETS.

Weekly Change of Quotations in All Lines of Local Trade.

Office of the Intelligencer.

Wheeling, Feb. 1, 1893.

"Wheeling is the poorest market in the country for oranges—that is from the produce man's point of view," said a commission man to-day. They are sold here on a margin of ten or fifteen cents a box, not enough to cover rotting fruit."

During the week, advances and declines were as follows:

Advances—Meats and lard, flour, lake herring, tobacco, Swiss cheese, hogs. Declines—Cotton, holly, sugars, clover seed, manilla, C. M. Ellingham's Weekly Price Current: The former market shows very much the same features which have characterized it during the past few weeks. A steady, firm feeling prevails, giving the impression that holders have the situation well in hand, and while no actual improvement has taken place, yet there is absolutely no present sign of weakening.

Flour—Family roller mill winter wheat, wood at \$4.70 per barrel; paper at \$4.50 per barrel; spring wheat, Minnehaha \$5.50 in cotton sacks; \$5.70 per barrel; \$5.50 in paper sacks; old wheat Galaxy, \$5.30 in paper sacks; \$5.50 per barrel; Pillsbury flour \$5.70 in wood and in cotton; \$5.50 in paper.

Syrups—Choice sugar syrups, 27c; Family draps 23c; Silver draps 18c; New Orleans molasses, choice, 33c; prime 30c; medium 28c; mixed, good, New Orleans, 26c; bakers' good, 18c.

Provisions—Large S. C. hams, 5c; small hams 5 1/2c; S. C. breakfast hams 5 1/2c; shoulders 6 1/2c; sides 6 1/2c; ordinary beef 16c; ham dried beef 17c; knuckles 17c; family mess pork, 5-pound pieces \$9.00; bean pork, 5 lbs., \$8.50.

Lard—Pure refined lb. tierce 5 1/2c; 50-lb. tierce 5 1/2c; Chicago lard, tierce 5 1/2c; 50-lb. tierce 5 1/2c; the advance for smaller packages is as follows: 10-lb. tierce 5 1/2c; 5-lb. tierce 5 1/2c; fancy tins 5 1/2c; 20-lb. tierce 5 1/2c; 10-lb. tierce 5 1/2c; 5-lb. tierce 5 1/2c; 3-lb. tierce 5 1/2c.

Sugars—Cutoff 5 1/2c; cubes 5 1/2c; powdered 5 1/2c; granulated standard 5 1/2c; American A 4 1/2c; standard fine granulated 5 1/2c; standard confectioners' A 5 1/2c; Columbia A 4 1/2c; standard Windsor 4 1/2c; white extra C 4 1/2c; extra C 4 1/2c; fruit sugar 4 1/2c.

Coffee—Green coffee—Fancy Golden Rio 15c; fancy green 15c; choice green 14 1/2c; roasting grades 10 1/2c; Java 25c; extra in packages, Arrow 2 1/2c; Panhandle 2 1/2c; Arbuckle & Co.'s roasted 2 1/2c; Lion 2 1/2c; bulk roasted 2 1/2c; Old Government Java roasted 2 1/2c; Mocha and Java 2 1/2c; A grade Rio 2 1/2c.

Teas—Young Hyson, per lb. 30¢; Gunpowder, 20¢; Imperial, 40¢; Japan, 25¢; Oolong, 27¢; Sou-chang, 27¢.

Candies—Star full weight, 7 1/2c; Paraffin per lb., 3 1/2c; Electric Light, per lb., 3 1/2c.

Vinegar—Choice cider, 12¢/14¢ per gallon; standard city brands, 10¢/11¢ per gallon; country, 12¢/15¢ per gallon, as to quality.

Cheese—Full cream 10¢/11c; Switzer 11¢/12c; Limburger 12c; factory 7c; Fish—No. 2 mackerel, 10¢; No. 1, 12¢; No. 2 extra mackerel, 11¢; new, 100 lbs. \$12.00; No. 2, 80 lbs. \$11.00; No. 3 small \$4.00 for 100 lbs.; No. 3 large 100 lbs. \$10.00.

Seeds—Timothy, \$1.50/1.60 per bushel; clover, small seed, \$4.00/4.50. Salt—No. 1 per bbl., 90¢; extra, per bbl., \$1.00; dairy, fine, five-bushel sacks, 20¢ per sack.

Seed Corn—11¢ per lb. Wooden Ware—No. 1 tubs \$5.00; No. 2, \$4.25; No. 3, \$3.50; 2-hoop pails \$1.15; 2-hoop, \$1.25; single washboards, \$1.50; double do., \$2.50; fine crimped double do., \$2.75; single do., \$2.55.

Grain and Feed.

(Quotations by Walter Marshall.) Grain—New wheat \$5.00/5.25; Corn 40¢/45¢ per bushel; Oats out of store, western corn, 30¢/35¢ per bushel; home oats 30¢ per bushel.

Feed—Bran \$15.00 per ton; middlings \$16.00 per ton. Hay (baled) \$11.00; hay (loose) \$7.00/8.00; Straw, loose and baled \$6.00 per ton.

Fruits and Produce.

(Quotations by Walter Worls & Co.) Butter—Creamery, fancy, 21¢/22¢; country, choice per lb., 12¢/15¢; country good, 9¢; country, fair, 5¢. Butterine, C. C. brand, 10¢/12c; common, 10¢.

Eggs—Firm; fresh in case, 20¢ per dozen; storage eggs 17¢ per dozen. Poultry—Old roosters 3¢ per lb.; spring chickens, 7¢ per lb.; hens, 6¢ per lb.; geese, 40¢ each.

Fruits—Apples \$2.50/4.00 per barrel. Malaga grapes \$5.00/5.50 per barrel. Watermelons—Jersey sweet potatoes, \$3.50 per barrel; Irish potatoes, 80¢/85¢ per bushel. Beets, 50¢ per bushel. New cabbage \$1.00 per barrel. Spanish onions \$1.00/1.50 per crate. Cranberries \$2.00 per crate. Parsnips \$1.50 per barrel. Turnips \$1.00 per barrel.

Tropical Fruits—Lemons \$5.00/4.00 box; bananas \$1.00/1.25 per bunch. Jamaica oranges \$4.00/4.50 per box. Florida oranges \$4.00/4.50 per box. California naval oranges \$2.50/3.00 per box. No. 1 Huggins nuts, \$1.50 per bushel; walnuts, 40¢ per bushel.

Miscellaneous.

Roots and Bark—Ginseng, dry, per lb., \$2.00/3.00; some in market; sassafras bark per lb., 80¢; sassafras oil, per lb., 30¢/40¢; May apple root, per lb., 65¢/75¢; yellow root, per lb., 85¢; Seneca snake root, per lb., free of top, 30¢/35¢; West Virginia snake root, per lb., 25¢/30¢; pink root, per lb., fine, 30¢/35¢; elm bark, per lb., 7¢; wild cherry bark, per lb., 12¢/20¢.

Beans—Prime new hand-picked, medium, \$2.25; prime new hand-picked navy, \$1.75.

Wool—Wine washed, 25¢; one-third off for unwashed; one-fourth off for unwashed; medium unwashed 18¢/20¢; medium washed 25¢.

Rags—Cotton, mixed, 1/2¢/1¢ per lb. Honey—Good, 10¢/11¢ per lb.

Wheeling Live Stock Market.

(Quotations by Goodhue & Co.) Cattle—Extra, 1,000 to 1,200 \$4.00/4.50; good, 500 to 1,000, \$4.00/4.50; good, 800 to 900, \$3.75/4.00; fair, 700 to 800, \$3.50/3.75; common 600 to 700, \$3.00/3.25; bulls, 24¢/25¢; cows, 14¢/25¢.

Hogs—Extra \$3.50/3.75; good \$3.25/3.50; common \$3.00/3.25; fair \$2.75/3.00; sheep—Extra \$1.00/1.25; good \$3.50/4.00; common \$3.00/3.50; lambs 4¢/5¢.

Fresh Cows—\$25/35; calves 5¢/6¢.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

The Features of the Money and Stock Markets.

NEW YORK, Feb. 1.—Money on call easy at 1 1/2¢/1 1/4¢ per cent; loan 1 1/2¢/1 1/4¢ per cent. Prime mercantile paper 3¢/4¢ per cent. Sterling exchange firm, with actual business in bankers' bills at \$1.24 1/2¢ for demand and at \$1.24 1/4¢ for 60 days; posted rates \$1.24 1/2¢/1.24 1/4¢. Commercial bills \$1.24 1/2¢/1.24 1/4¢. Silver certificates 50¢/50¢. Bar silver 50¢. Mexican dollars 45¢.

The stock market to-day had a load of liquidation to carry still heavier than that of yesterday and there were fewer

prominent stocks to exert a sustaining force by special strength. The heavy offerings were well absorbed and net declines are for the most part confined to fractions, but are general. For a time after the opening there seemed to be no diminution from yesterday's activity. There had evidently been a large accumulation of outside orders over night and London was also a buyer of stock. This demand was marked, however, without effecting any marked advance in price, offerings being very large. Later prices began to yield under the weight of continued offerings, but the pressure was not great and the market fell into dullness, holders apparently being content to await a rally to continue the liquidation. The rallies were helped by the continuing strength of a number of stocks and especially Union Pacific and all securities. The strength of these gained during the day and the stock closed at the highest at a net advance of over a point. Baltimore & Ohio showed early weakness, but rallied 2 1/2¢ per cent on an unauthorized assertion that the reorganization plan had been agreed upon. Upon the denial of this the stock fell away, but closed with a small net gain. The Ohio soft coal roads gave evidence of strength on the better outlook for the coal traffic and reports of an agreement amongst them for its distribution. Des Moines & Fort Dodge made a conspicuous movement of 3 1/2¢ per cent. There were some very marked gains along the usually dormant stocks, such as Great Northern preferred, Chicago & Eastern Illinois preferred, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago & North Western preferred, Express and Susquehanna Western preferred. There were periods of strength in other stocks during the day, notably the local traction companies, Western Union and General Electric, but the order of the day was profit-taking and this tendency extended even to Northern Pacific preferred upon which there was a quarterly dividend of 1 per cent declared late in the day. London bought some stocks early in this market, but sold more later, which probably had an influence in giving a somewhat stiffer tone to the exchange market. It is to be noted, however, that a part of the cash from the interior which is being received in New York is due to remittances on account of Australian gold received at San Francisco to the order of New York houses. There was a noticeable growth of activity in the money market to-day, the supply showing a decided increase, but without any notable effect on the rates. The rates for call loans worked to a lower basis in spite of the withdrawal of the second ten per cent installments of the government's deposits of the Union Pacific payment. This withdrawal was called for tomorrow, but most of it was made to-day.

In the bond market the Kansas Pacific consols were the most conspicuous feature, with an advance of 5 1/2¢ per cent to 110 1/2¢.

Other bonds of the Kansas Pacific advanced 1 to 3 points on the belief that they would be included in the Union Pacific reorganization with or without arrangement with the government. The bond market generally showed a continuance of activity, and prices continued to advance. Total sales \$6,140,000.

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